



The Mountaineer

75 Years of Recreation and Renewal

IN 1936, THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE received a directive to cultivate Catoctin Mountain as a recreational paradise. It was one of 46 similar projects nationwide, and something Americans had never tried on this scale. Planners considered what facilities they would build, the condition of the natural resources, and who would do all the work.

From Charcoal to Dust Bowl

Since the late 1700s, the iron industry used Catoctin Mountain's forests to make charcoal. The industry employed many in the region, but also scarred the mountain. After the furnace was extinguished in 1903, the forest and the community lay fallow and indigent.

By the time of the Great Depression, agriculture grew unprofitable for various ecological and economic reasons. Corn sustained the local economy to some extent when it was distilled for easier and more profitable transport to market. The Blue Blazes Still met a violent end in Maryland's largest alcohol bust.

The Human Crop

Since the land would not grow farm crops, the U.S. Department of the Interior suggested raising a "human crop." The fertile ground was the mountain's potential for outdoor recreation. The farmer was the highly successful New Deal program that created the Recreational Demonstration Areas.

The fertilizer would be public works programs like the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration: they planted trees, built cabins and picnic areas, cut trails, and renewed

the pride of previously unemployed Americans. Consumers came from nearby urban areas, especially Baltimore, to grow from the wholesome diet of outdoor recreation.

A Bountiful Harvest

During World War Two, President Franklin Roosevelt established a Presidential Retreat here. When the state asked Truman in 1945 to make good on the promise of a state park, he responded:

"Because of historical events of national and international interest now associated with Catoctin Recreation Area this property should be retained by the Federal Government..."



Cunningham Falls State Park was finally established in 1954 under the Eisenhower administration.

Just as a good gardener grows many crops, history has fruited many reasons for Catoctin Mountain Park's inclusion in the National Park System: it hosts the nation's oldest camp for the disabled; it played a supporting role in World War Two; it was the site of the first Job Corps Camp; it is a prime example of the resiliency and diversity of the Eastern deciduous forest; it helps protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The work of constructing this national park originally fell upon the federal work programs of the New Deal. That was 75 years ago. Today we depend upon dedicated public servants, partners, and volunteers to tend the garden and allow future generations to grow on the mountain.

Superintendent's Message

Mel Poole,
Superintendent



Welcome to Catoctin Mountain Park. In 1935, when this park was still in the planning phase, the Baltimore Sun called it "a gift from the government."

In those early days, this park was in some ways like the other national parks: a great idea and a grand experiment.

In truly American style, we tried something new and we did it well. The first park manager, Garland Williams, was quoted as saying "it will be possible to carry out practically all of the plans for developing recreational facilities without going outside the area for materials."

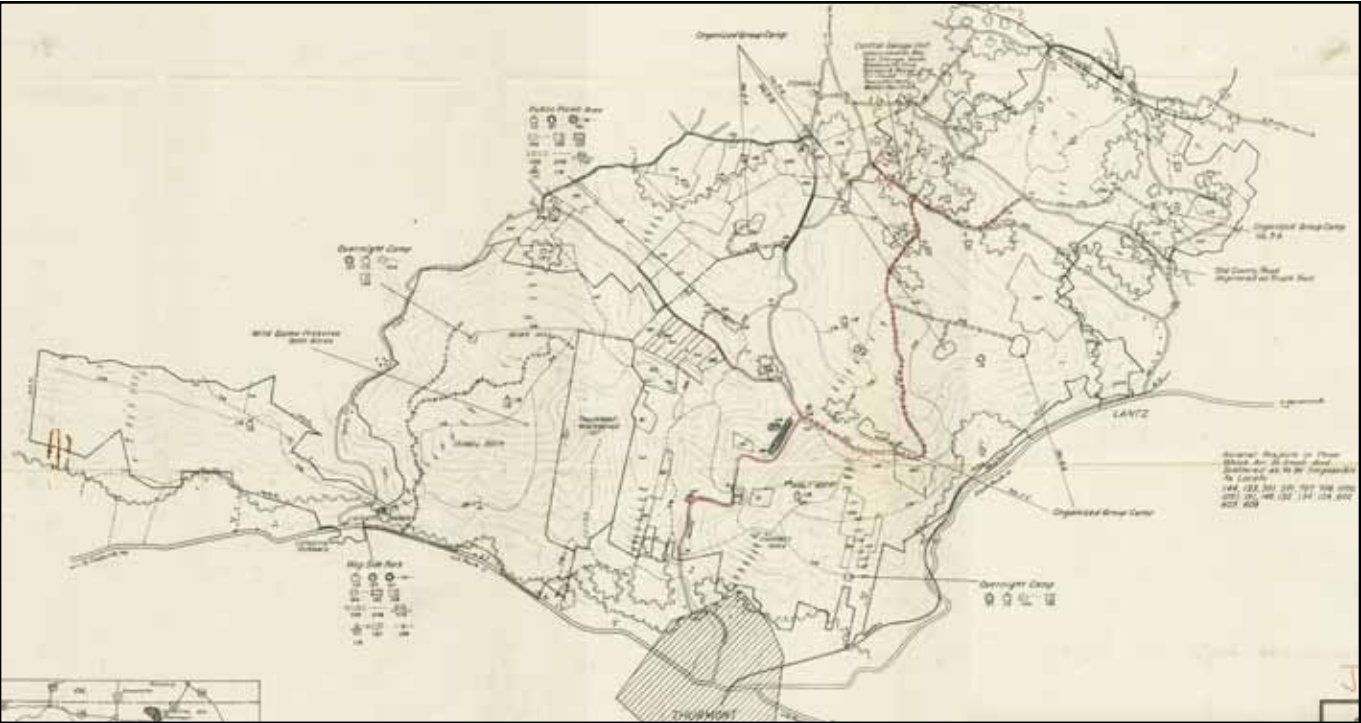
We demonstrated that recreation and conservation can revitalize our country. We proved that we can do it ourselves with the materials at hand.

Seventy-five years later, we have gained a return many times the government's investment. We have turned this park into a recreational paradise and a preservation miracle.

May we enjoy it for many more generations.

Mel Poole

Read about
our partner
in celebration
on the other
side of this
newspaper.



A park planning document from 1937 reveals some ambitious work. By this point, the park had completed two cabin areas, two picnic areas, the central road, and plenty of conservation work. Note that some planned development never met fruition.



Building Our Future



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Catoctin Mountain Park

“The Mountaineer” was the name of the CCC’s newsletter when they helped create Catoctin Mountain Park. During the Great Depression, New Deal programs made this exploited mountain into a place of hope and rejuvenation for a nation in need of a new economy.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Streams of History Converge

Susan Burke, Supervisory Park Ranger

In 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt selected Catoctin Mountain as the location for the Presidential Retreat. As a ranger on the National Mall I would take visitors through the FDR Memorial. Little did I know those two journeys would converge. I knew Camp David was located somewhere in western Maryland but gave it little thought. What I did think about was the impact FDR had on the American people.

When Roosevelt was inaugurated as the 32nd president of the United States, the U.S. was at the lowest point of the worst depression in its history. A quarter of the workforce was unemployed. Farmers were in deep trouble as prices fell by 60%. Industrial production had fallen by more than half since 1929. Two million were homeless.

Roosevelt’s “First 100 Days” of office concentrated on immediate relief measures. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) set up a national relief agency that employed two million family heads. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) hired 250,000 unemployed young men to work on rural conservation projects. Both of these efforts were instrumental in creating Catoctin Mountain Park.

Of all the monuments and memorials on the National Mall, FDR is my favorite. Running water is an important physical and metaphoric component of the memorial. Each of the four “rooms” contains a waterfall. As one moves from room to room, the waterfalls become larger and more complex, reflecting the increasing complexity of a presidency marked by the vast upheavals of economic depression and world war.



The FDR Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

Water plays an important role here at Catoctin Mountain Park. Streams cascade down the mountain bringing life for plants, animals, and people. The streams provided power to run the saw mills. The land saw years of making charcoal to fuel nearby iron furnaces, mountain farming, and harvesting of trees for timber. In 1935, the Federal Government began transforming the mountain into a productive recreation area, helping to put people back to work during the Great Depression. The Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps were instrumental in creating the *Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area*.

And here is where my stories join together. After years of walking through the FDR Memorial telling the story of his presidency I now walk the trails of Catoctin Mountain Park telling the story of his struggle to bring the country out of the worst depression in its history.

First Bloom Native Wildflower Garden Project



firstbloom
A Program of the National Park Foundation



Debra Mills, Park Ranger

Catoctin Mountain Park and the National Park Foundation partnered with Robert Moton Elementary School, Westminster, Maryland to plant a native wildflower garden during the 2010 – 2011 school year. The Catoctin Forest Alliance administered grant funds and provided support.

Ranger-led field trips, and service-learning projects that helped Robert Moton students learn how alien plants impact the ecosystem were made possible by the National Park Foundation’s First Bloom initiative. The participating youth groups and organizations learn, hands-on, about the environment in the national park system’s living classroom,



providing an enriching way for students to learn the importance of protecting the natural environment.

Students learned about invasive plants and the impact of human actions on the natural environment on a September 26 field trip. They planted trees and learned about fall color change, tree growth and wetlands on a second visit to Catoctin in late October. Ranger visits and

conference calls kept interaction with park rangers active throughout the winter months. While at school, students researched native plants and planned a garden design.

Girl Scout Troop 81746 of Mt. Airy, MD and the Green Club Dwight D. Eisenhower School in Laurel, MD removed existing plants and turned the soil in preparation for the garden planting on April 26. Park Rangers, teachers and volunteers helped the students plant and mulch the entire garden in less than three hours.

Hands-on activities in Catoctin Mountain Park allowed students who do not excel in the classroom to become outstanding students for the day, and improved students for the

year. Field trips to the park were life-changing for many students and their families as experiences at Catoctin prompted them to explore other national parks.

The Robert Moton garden design and the designs of 23 First Bloom groups from across the nation were submitted to an online national competition. The Catoctin/Robert Moton design received 1595 of 7391 votes and was the winning entry. The students were rewarded with a field trip to Washington, DC.



Anniversary Events

1936

The Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area gets its start under New Deal Legislation.

1937

The Maryland League for Crippled Children begins a long tradition of summers in the park, first at Misty Mount and then Greentop.

1942-1947

The park supports the nation during WWII. OSS agents train at Camp Greentop. Marines rest after Iwo Jima and Okinawa at Misty Mount. Franklin Roosevelt establishes the Presidential Retreat Shangri-La.

1954

The southern 4446 acres of the park were turned over to the state to become Cunningham Falls State Park.

1957-1996

Frederick County Outdoor School begins a long tradition of outdoor education in the park.

1965

President Lyndon Johnson establishes the first Job Corps camp in the nation at Catoctin.

1978

President Jimmy Carter brokers peace in the Middle East with the Camp David Accords.

2009

The park begins controlling the deer population, ushering in a new era of natural resource management.



Campground Programs

Owens Creek Campground amphitheater

It's a tradition! Programs are ranger's choice, but many will feature our 75th anniversary.

Saturdays through Labor Day

6:00 Children's programming

9:00 (8:30 in August) All audiences



Hiking Challenge

Available online or at the Visitor Center.

Hike all 25 miles of the park's trails to show your support for our anniversary. Pick up a trail log and stamp every trail you hike. Those who complete the challenge will earn a commemorative reward and an optional listing in our hall of fame.



Artist in Residence

Meet our artists on August 20 & October 15.

After its pilot year, our Artist In Residence program makes a show of force for the anniversary. See how art and conservation go hand-in-hand.

Exhibition all of September at The Delaplaine in Frederick.

Artists: prepare your application now for the next residency.



Blacksmith Demonstrations

Camp Round Meadow

The blacksmith played an important part in village life and here at Catoctin Mountain Park it was no different. The blacksmith made nails, hinges and other metal items necessary to build cabin camps.

7/17, 8/6, 8/13, 8/27, 10/22, 11/5, 11/6, 11/12, 11/13



Fall Color Walks

Hog Rock Parking Lot

75 years of conservation brings its benefits. As the forest grows healthier, the colors grow more beautiful. Join a ranger or naturalist to see what is behind the seasonal beauty.

October 9, 15, 16, 22



Thurmont-Emmitsburg Community Show

September 9-11

The show will feature Catoctin Mountain Park this year to honor our anniversary. Come see us and the rest of the town that renamed itself as the "Gateway to the Mountain."

Catoctin High School



Volunteer Recognition Dance

November 19

The park invites our dedicated volunteers to a celebration of 75 years of public service. Music of the 1930s will take us back to the park's founding.

cato_volunteers@nps.gov



Escape. Explore. Experience.

PRINCE WILLIAM FOREST PARK AND CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK were both created by the same New Deal legislation on November 12, 1936. Over the past 75 years, the parks have shared many common stories. Both are stunning examples of this conservation miracle, with the regrowth of the forest and the reappearance of bears, orchids, and even freshwater sponges. Both have demonstrated how outdoor recreation can save us from poverty - in an economic and spiritual sense. These parks were created as Recreational Demonstration Areas to be given to the states. Seventy-five years later we remain in the protection of the National Park Service, so we are celebrating together our proud accomplishments.



Look for 75th-anniversary commemorative items in our cooperating association's sales areas.

The Demonstration Succeeds

Jennifer Miller, Park Ranger, Cunningham Falls State Park

Cunningham Falls State Park in Maryland is a great example of the RDA program's success.

It is almost impossible to imagine the landscape where Cunningham Falls State Park now exists as being anything but picturesque. But less than 100 years ago, the sky was thick with a sulfurous smoke, much of the forest was clear cut for the third time in its history, and the streams were choked with eroded soil and debris from over logging. The degradation was done in the name of the Catoctin Iron Furnace. Today, the remains of the Furnace and Iron Master's Manor House still stand as a reminder of past progress and industrial ingenuity. These remains also symbolize the power of conservation and renewal.

Mark Maas, Cunningham Falls Park Manager, noted the 75th Anniversary of the creation of the Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area by the National Park Service, saying, "By joining with Catoctin Mountain Park in their celebration, the management and staff of Cunningham Falls State Park honors our common history and shared heritage of natural resource preservation and public service."

The Recreational Demonstration Areas

Recreational Demonstration Areas (RDA) exemplified the success of the New Deal. The National Park Service transformed struggling lands and communities nation-wide into recreational paradises. It was an idea ahead of its time, yet just in time for a nation in need.

The RDA program created or enlarged 46 parks across the nation. The federal government partnered with state, educational, nonprofit, and local organizations to develop the land. Public works programs such as the CCC and WPA played an essential role.

The NPS turned most of these areas over to the states. They became models for continued development of public recreational facilities. Now dozens of state parks and their gateway communities can reap the rewards of our investment in this "human crop."



Eighteen years after the Mountain Tract purchase was made to reclaim the damaged land, the National Park Service presented the title to 4,446.8 acres to Maryland Governor Theodore McKeldin for inclusion in the Maryland State Park System on June 11, 1954. The area was named Cunningham Falls State Park after a local photographer who frequently took pictures of the park's treasured cascading McAfee Falls.

The park has welcomed in excess of 275,000 visitors annually ever since. Remains of the Catoctin Iron Furnace can still be visited in the Manor Area of the park, which also offers a Scales & Tales Aviary, recycled tire playground, and campground. The William Houck Area, located across from Catoctin Mountain Park, offers swimming, fishing, boating, camping, picnicking, and hiking opportunities. The land

that was once scarred is now home to a young, growing, and diverse forest that supports a multitude of life and serves as a gateway for many visitors to the natural world.



Not for Kids Only

Make your own park!
Use the model below to make your dream park.

First give your park a name.

Draw some roads and trails.

Use these symbols to show where you would put:

 Campgrounds

 Picnic Areas

 Ranger Station

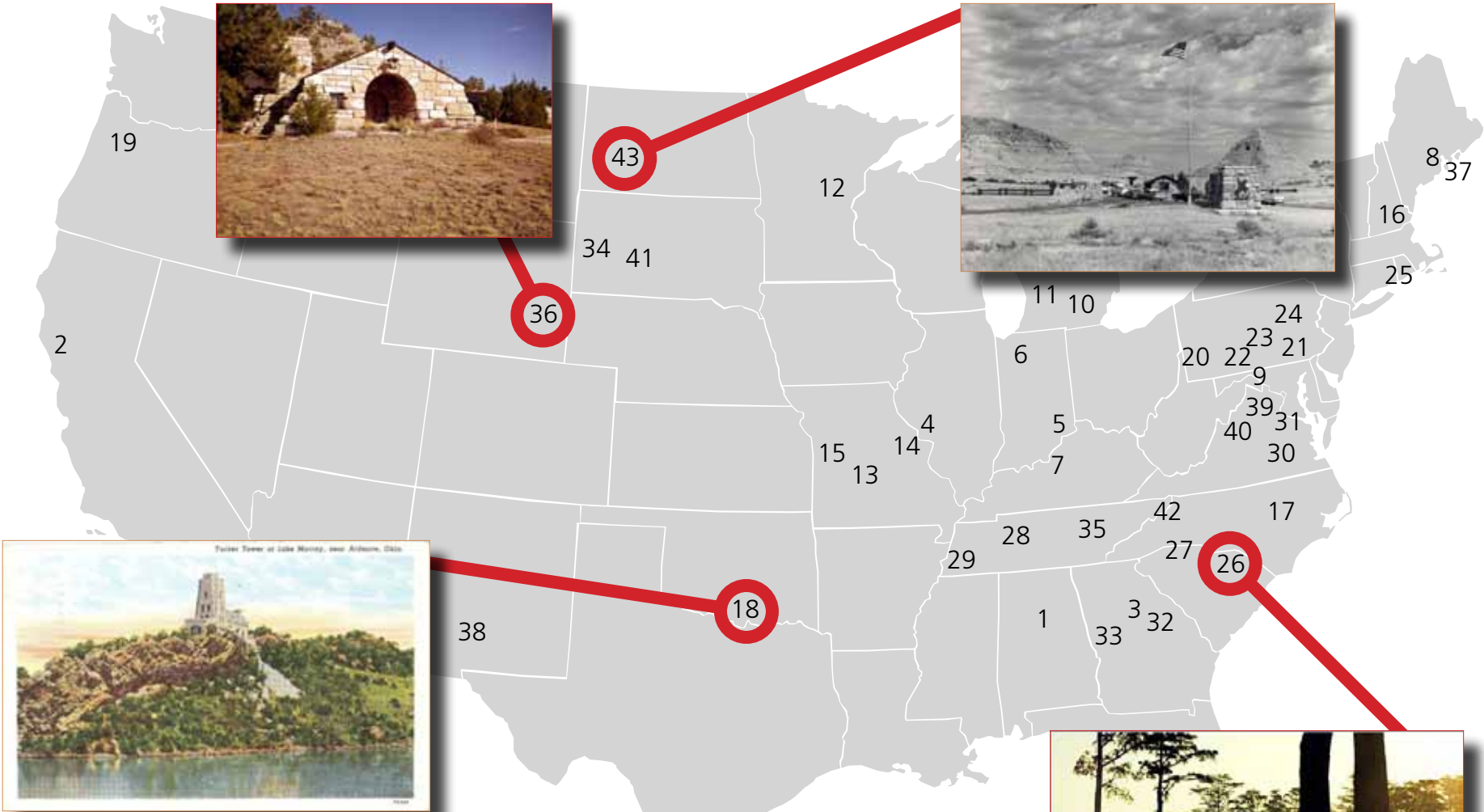
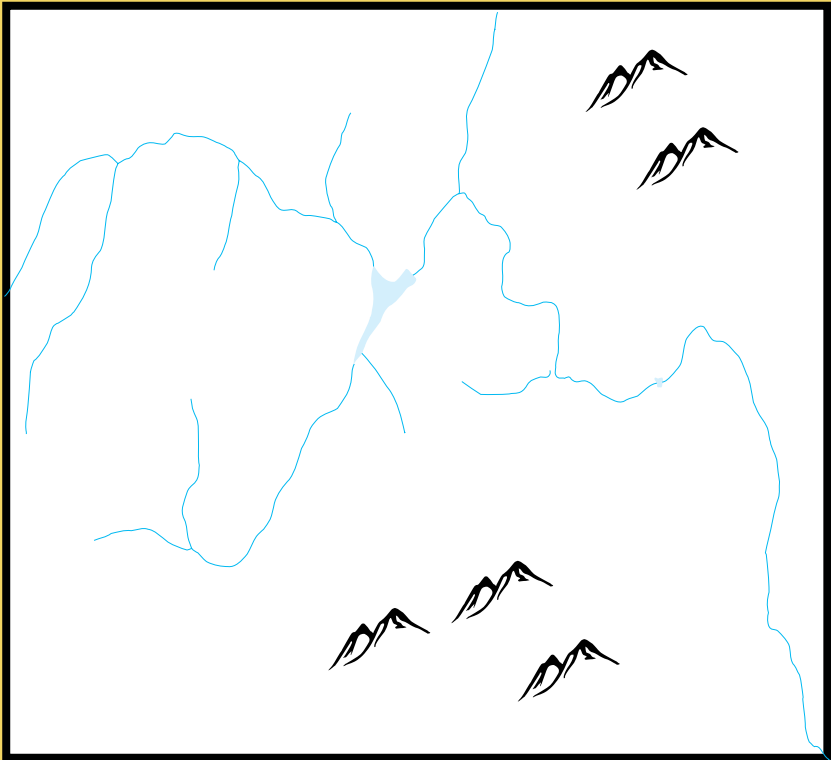
 Swimming

 Bicycling

 Rock Climbing

Make your own symbols for other activities and facilities.

Park Name



Recreational Demonstration Areas Across the USA

Areas in green are still associated with the National Park Service.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Oak Mountain | 16 Bear Brook | 31 Chopawamsic |
| 2 Mendocino | 17 Crabtree Creek | 32 Alex H. Stephens |
| 3 Hard Labor Creek | 18 Lake Murray | 33 Pine Mountain |
| 4 Pere Marquette | 19 Silver Creek | 34 Custer Park |
| 5 Versailles | 20 Raccoon Creek | 35 Falls Creek |
| 6 Winamac | 21 French Creek | 36 Lake Guernsey |
| 7 Otter Creek | 22 Laurel Hill | 37 Acadia NP |
| 8 Camden | 23 Blue Knob | 38 White Sands NM |
| 9 Catoctin | 24 Hickory Run | 39 Manassas NB |
| 10 Waterloo | 25 Beach Pond | 40 Shenandoah NP |
| 11 Yankee Springs | 26 Cheraw | 41 Badlands NP |
| 12 Saint Croix | 27 Kings Mountain | 42 Blue Ridge Parkway |
| 13 Lake of the Ozarks | 28 Montgomery Bell | 43 Theodore Roosevelt NP |
| 14 Cuivre River | 29 Shelby Forest | |
| 15 Montserrat | 30 Swift Creek | |



Anniversary Events

May, 1935

The First CCC Company arrives at Chopawamsic RDA.

July, 1936

The first kids from Washington, DC arrive at Chopawamsic.

1937

The All-African American 'Camp Lichtman' operated its first boys Camp at Chopawamsic.

1940

Chopawamsic RDA is renamed Chopawamsic National Capital Park.

April, 1942

Chopawamsic National Capital Park becomes OSS Training Areas A (special operations) and C (communications).

1948

Chopawamsic National Capital Park is renamed Prince William Forest Park.

June, 1989

4 of the 5 historic cabin camps are nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

December 2002

The Cabin Branch Pyrite Mine is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

2008

The park hosts the 75th anniversary of the CCC with 15 original CCC alumni.



Summer Interpretive Programs

Throughout the park

Fridays & Saturdays through Labor Day

Enjoy a guided hike with a ranger, engaging campfire program, a spooky cemetery hike, or Saturday morning craft hour.

75th Anniversary Camp-Out!

Cabin Camp 2

Saturday, July 9

Join us on this special weekend when we open a historic cabin camp for the public. Eat at the mess hall, make nature crafts in the craft cabin, boat on the lake, and join us around the campfire... just like old times.

Chopawamsic Cycle Challenge 2011

Park roads

Sunday, September 11

Challenge yourself on this 14-mile on- and off-road bicycle ride through Prince William Forest Park. Sponsored by the Friends of Prince William Forest Park, this event is a great way to become familiar with the park and its friends group. For more information, visit the Friends' website at www.fpwfp.org.

Marine Corps Marathon

Park roads

September 17

The 11-mile (17.75k) distance is unique to the MCM Event Series and commemorates the year in which the USMC was founded and runs through Prince William Forest Park. Major road closures and disruptions will occur throughout the park.

National Public Lands Day

Saturday, September 24

NPLD is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance our public lands. In 2009, 150,000 volunteers built trails and bridges, removed trash and invasive plants, planted trees and restored our water resources. Join us for the next NPLD in Prince William Forest Park to make your contribution.

Heritage Festival

Saturday, October 15

Come see the history through the trees and celebrate our shared local heritage with music, craft demonstrations, kids' activities and more. Learn about the early farm families of Prince William Forest Park and travel the route that General George Washington and his troops took to win the battle of Yorktown.

The Haunted Campground

Saturday, October 29

Reserve a campsite today and begin to plan your scare-tastic setup! Prizes awarded for best campsite decoration, best scary story, and best costume. Don't want to setup? Bring your family out to hike from site to site then vote on who should win first prize!

Happy 75th Birthday Celebration

November 12

Dance to the sound of the big bands in the historic OSS Theatre. Birthday cake, historic photos and speaker will highlight this old fashion birthday celebration.

Happy Days

Original title from the nation-wide CCC newspaper.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Prince William Forest Park

75 years ago, Prince William Forest Park first opened its doors to the public as Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area. Chopawamsic was developed as the 'model' for organized group recreation sites around the nation.

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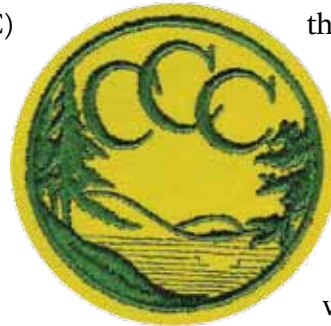
The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

The Vanguard of a New Spirit

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) transformed many of the men who entered its service. A generation that knew only joblessness and hopelessness found purpose in building the infrastructure of America's parks. In 1933, President Roosevelt devoted one of his fireside chats to the men of the CCC. He said,

"Men of the Civilian Conservation Corps - you nearly 300,000 strong - are evidence that the nation is still strong enough and broad enough to look after its citizens. You are evidence that we are seeking to get away as fast as we possibly can from the soup kitchens and free rations. Through you, the nation will graduate a fine group of strong young men, clean-living, trained to self-discipline, and above all, willing and proud to work for the joy of working. It is time for each and every one of us to cast away self-destroying, nation destroying efforts to get something for nothing, and to appreciate that satisfying reward and safe reward that comes through honest work. That must be the new spirit of the American future. You are the Vanguard of that new spirit."

At Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area (RDA), over 2,000 men of the Civilian Conservation Corps found honest work building the cabins, roads, dams and infrastructure of



the park. First to arrive were the men of Company 1374, Camp SP-22. Company 1374 worked from May of 1935 to 1939 building Cabin Camps 1 and 4. Company 2349 was established in Camp SP25 in July of 1935 and worked on Cabin Camps 2 and 5 until March of 1938. Co. 2349 was known across the CCC for excelling in academic instruction, vocational classes and sport and hobby competitions, as well as for its parties, sing-a-longs, and weekly stunt night. Co. 2383 arrived in August of 1935 and stayed at Chopawamsic into the early days of the occupation of the park by the Office of Strategic Services in 1942. Company 2383 constructed Cabin Camp 3 and many of the guard houses, shooting ranges, and outbuildings used by the OSS.

In each of these companies, daily life revolved around U.S. Army overseers who woke the companies to reveille, and organized uniforms, supplies, and exercise routines around Army standards. The work however, was supervised and directed by the National Park Service. The all-white companies of CCC boys of Chopawamsic, worked alongside their racially-integrated Works Progress Administration (WPA) counterparts. Together they built Chopawamsic from the ground up and transformed themselves in the process.



Joe Hebda

For the Chopawamsic CCC camps, no one better exemplified the 'new spirit' of the CCC better than Joe Hebda. His life story could have, in a large part, been written by the designers of the CCC. He embodies all they hoped would come from the program.

Joe Hebda was born as the eldest of nine children in July of 1914 in Everson, PA. He left home at the age of 14 to find work to help support his family. In 1934, at the age of 19, he joined the CCC. In 1935, he joined Company 2349 at Camp SP-25 in Joplin, Virginia. There he met, and later married, Thelma, a local girl.

Joe stayed with the CCC until 1938 when he joined the United States navy and proudly served in World War II with Construction Battalion 59.

In July of 1949, Joe went to work for



the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service at Chopawamsic National Capital Park (known today as Prince William Forest Park). In August of 1979, after 30 years of service to Prince William Forest Park, Joe Hebda retired as the Chief of Maintenance; a job that he loved.

The life of Joe Hebda and the life of Prince William Forest Park are inextricably intertwined. The park and country are indebted to him and to all members of the CCC for their service. Joe passed away in 2007 and is buried at Quantico National Cemetery, next to Thelma.





The Oasis

A Model For The Ages

On June 6, 1936, Robert Fechner, Director of Work for the Civilian Conservation Corps, and Conrad Wirth, Assistant Director of the National Park Service toured Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area (RDA), known today as Prince William Forest Park. Chopawamsic was their brainchild - a model recreation area with easy access to Washington, DC that provided overnight recreation for impoverished youth. It was relief through recreation. RDAs would not be the vast, awe-inspiring landscapes of Yosemite and Grand Canyon, but in their quiet woods and trickling streams, all Americans could afford to vacation in nature's palace.

Behind the games and crafts, campfires and woodworking, a social agenda for wellness took shape. At the Mess Hall, nutrition was closely supervised as the National Park Service did its part to fight childhood malnutrition. At the Camp Infirmary, nurses and doctors weighed each child as they came to camp and when they left, hoping to find weight gain and greater health. Sanitation was closely inspected and great thought was given to ventilation and healthy activities. At one camp, single mothers and their 'tots' were taught child rearing skills and nutrition.

In 1937, "The Nation's Finest Camp for Negro Youth" took root in the soils of the Chopawamsic. Camp Lichtman belonged to the ground-breaking All-African American 12th St Y.M.C.A. of Washington DC. The opportunity to take part in a "character building camp experience" was made possible from the generous support of Abe Lichtman, a Jewish man and major theater magnate in Washington, DC. His generosity made standardized camping for African American boys a reality. He expanded the camp by moving it from its former location at the George Washington National Forest to Camp 1 at the Chopawamsic RDA.

For a small fee, Camp Litchman offered the boys instruction in a myriad of activities such as crafts, woodworking, swimming, fencing, and photography, and provided them with new

experiences that would last a lifetime. The camp provided a full-time physician and cooks to provide "scientifically supervised" menus, something not easy to come by during the hard times of the Depression. The boys learned good sportsmanship as they played baseball, ping pong, basketball, and

checkers, in competitions between camp units. They planned hiking routes and cooked their own meals at the campsite. Many youngsters restored their health, found their voices, and made lifelong friends.

As our nation left behind its fight against the Great Depression, it joined the new national fight of World War Two. Chopawamsic joined the war effort by becoming the Advanced Special Operations

and Communications training schools for the fledgling Office of Strategic Services. The OSS was America's first centralized intelligence agency and the foundation of today's Special Forces. At Chopawamsic, the art of spying and enemy infiltration was honed in the same cabins and play fields that once held the laughter of children.

Today Chopawamsic, known since 1948 at Prince William Forest Park, welcomes visitors into a 75-year legacy of serving our citizens. Escape, explore and experience this oasis in all of its quiet beauty.



As the National Parks are places unattainable to certain millions, even most State Parks are beyond the horizons of many from the lower-income strata; the bringing of outdoor recreation within their reach is the object of this program.

– Recreational Demonstration Areas as Illustrated by Chopawamsic, Virginia, 1936.

Superintendent's Message

Vidal Martinez,
Superintendent



It is my pleasure to welcome you to Prince William Forest Park during our 75th Anniversary celebration.

In 2009, when I became the Park Superintendent, I was intrigued by the untold stories of this special place. I am proud to share with you the profound history of this site as a national model for the Recreational Demonstration Area (RDA) program.

RDAs were developed to meet the needs of a nation in economic turmoil. Federal, state, and local governments worked with non-governmental organizations to bring recreation areas to the doorstep of all Americans.

Here, at Chopawamsic RDA, development focused on organized group recreation for children. Health and outdoor play was our focus.

Today, the children of the 'Great Recession' need places for healthy outdoor recreation just as much as their Great Depression counterparts.

Enjoy your visit to Prince William Forest Park, the perfect place to escape, explore, and experience.

Read about our partner in celebration on the other side of this newspaper.

